

O, Give Me a Home

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(and what homemaker doesn't?) **How to Build Modern Kitchen Cabinets** by Milton Gunerman (Homecraft, 1948, \$1.50) is a delight. Here are cabinets, all sorts and conditions of storage spaces, accompanied by practical diagrams which Father or Brother or even a mechanically minded daughter can follow to make the kitchen a functional and aesthetic heart of the home.

To many of us who live in Oregon, the word 'home' brings to mind the picture of a white frame house in a setting of green firs. Yet there is considerable interest and experimentation today in the use of other building materials. Building blocks, both concrete and pumice, have come into wide usage. **The Concrete Block House** (Popular Mechanics, 1949, \$2.00) has plans, detailed diagrams and step by step descriptions of construction which would enable any layman with an aptitude for construction to build his own home. Still other uses of unfamiliar materials are discussed in **The Rammed Earth House** by A. F. Merrill (Harper, 1947, \$2.50) and in **Build Your Own Adobe** by Aller (Stanford, 1946, \$3.00). In the moisture-laden atmosphere of western Oregon such innovations should be approached with understandable caution. Yet we hear of a rammed earth house near Portland which has successfully withstood the elements for many years. However in the face of possible future scarcities of materials, these products are interesting things to contemplate.

One more face of the housing and building problem presents itself. Many of us already own a house. Once, long ago, in a glow of honeymoon rapture, we looked on it as the perfect dream-come-true. Now after some twenty-five years of daily association with it, it appears to our weary gaze like

something that belongs on an abandoned farm in the Great Plains area. Yet, make no mistake, there's life in the old house yet, and it's probably of much sounder construction than most post war structures. With a little face-lifting the old home may face the future with confidence. **How to Remodel a Home** by J. R. Dalzell (American Technical Society, 1945, \$4.75) is a boon to the discouraged home owner. An easy guide for remodeling, it includes an example of a remodeled house with a full set of blueprints. **New Houses From Old** by R. R. Hawkins (McGraw, 1948, \$4.95) also helps the bewildered householder to determine whether to remodel and just how to do it.

This is the time for nest building. Spring is here with its renewal of earth and spirit and its resurgence of optimistic dreams. What better realization can there be, whether you be young in years or in spirit, than the home of which you so long have dreamed?

Few people are too busy to mind someone's else's business.



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